

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /130 W

-----045389 191830Z /50

O 191738Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7100

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PN

SUBJECT: WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
(WECAFC)

1. CUBAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY FISHERIES VICE MINISTER OLTUSKI SUGGESTED AT THE MAY 16-17 FIRST SESSION OF THE WECAFC WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS THAT THE COMMISSION'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE THE WESTERN COAST OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE EASTERN CENTRAL PACIFIC AS FAR AS 135 DEGREES WEST. THE SUGGESTED NEW NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN LIMITS ARE TO BE DETERMINED LATER.

2. THE CUBAN DELEGATION GAVE FEW REASONS FOR THIS PROPOSAL BUT STRESSED THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF THE WECAFC MEMBER COUNTRIES HAVE COASTS ON BOTH OCEANS. DURING THE MAY 18 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, CHAIRED BY OLTUSKI, CUBA AVOIDED A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE STATING THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR THE FULL COMMISSION TO

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CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL. THE U.S. DELEGATION NOTES THAT NONE OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN DELEGATES WERE PRESENT AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE CUBAN PROPOSAL HAS BEEN MADE ON BEHALF OF THE PANAMANIAN DELEGATION.

3. THE U.S. DELEGATION RAISED THIS ISSUE AT THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE MEETING, MAINTAINING IT WAS PROBABLY A MATTER FOR COFI CONSIDERATION AND THAT (A) THE EXTENSION WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE MEETING DOCUMENTS AND THE U.S. AND OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE MATTER, (B) SUCH AN EXTENSION WOULD STRAIN THE ALREADY LIMITED FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE PROJECT, AND (C) THERE ARE VAST BIOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC AREAS. THE DELEGATION PLANS TO TAKE NO DEFINITIVE STAND ON THIS PROPOSAL, BUT TO STRESS THE NEED TO SUBJECT THE PROPOSAL TO A THOROUGH ANALYSIS AND REVIEW.

4. FAO DIRECTOR OF THE FISHERIES INDUSTRY DIVISION LEVON INDICATED THAT THERE IS NO FAO POSITION ON THE EXTENSION, BUT IT SHOULD PERHAPS BE DISCUSSED AT THE COMING COFI MEETING.

5. UNDP OFFICIAL RIPPLY INDICATED THAT FINANCING SUCH AS EXTENSION WOULD RAISE PROBLEMS. UNDP FUNDS FOR 1978 ARE ALREADY OVER COMMITTED AND 1979 FUNDS ARE ALMOT FULLY COMMITTED.

6. U.S. DELEGATION WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED U.S. POSITION DETAILED IN PARA 3. ABOVE.

7. PLEASE PASS TO OESOFA-STORER AND COMMERCE, NOAA,
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